

September 10, 1999

Name
Agency
Address

Dear X,

As you are aware, the establishment of an Environmental Water Account (EWA) is being explored as one element of CALFED's Water Management Strategy. We are writing to request your participation the development of the EWA framework to guide its establishment and implementation in Stage I. We are calling this group the EWA Development Team (EWADT). Governor Davis and Secretary Babbitt have requested that a framework for the EWA be completed by mid-December.

A collaborative agency/stakeholder effort has been on going since March 1998 to evaluate various aspects of an EWA. Several workgroups, including the Diversion Effects on Fish Team, the No Name Group, and the DEFT-No Name Coordination Team (DNCT), have done extensive modeling, analysis, and evaluation of various tools that could be used to structure and implement an EWA, as well as identified the scope of potential environmental benefits. The objective in doing this work has been to develop a set of assets and operating rules that can be used flexibly to achieve environmental benefits in response to real time assessment of need. Overall, the EWA would function to optimize the efficient use of water resources to provide the greatest environmental benefits for listed species in particular and the Bay-Delta ecosystem in general. At this point there is a need to establish a framework for the EWA that goes beyond the conceptual phase. The EWADT will be able to consider issues broader than the EWA if those issues are relevant to the EWA. The EWADT will be composed of agency and stakeholder representatives. It is envisioned that the EWADT will meet on a weekly basis through mid-October to make decisions critical to the development of the EWA. As the process moves forward, the meeting schedule may intensify.

To support the EWADT effort, CALFED has established an EWA Coordination Team (EWACT). This group will provide technical analysis similar to that of the DNCT at the directive of the EWACT.

With the short timeline in mind, we invite you to attend the first meeting of the EWADT on Wednesday September 22, 1999 from 1:00-4:00pm in Room 1131 of the Resources Building. We also request that you identify an alternate who can attend future meetings in your absence, should that be necessary, and who can participate in the decision-making process.

If you have any questions please call Ron Ott at (916) 657-3319 or Elise Holland at (415) 896-5900. We look forward to seeing you on the 22nd in Sacramento.

Sincerely,

Mike Spear	Tim Quinn
Regional Director	Deputy General Manager
US Fish and Wildlife Service	Metropolitan Water District

Attachment: Proposed EWA Management Structure

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